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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS  
OF  
THE KILKENNY AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
FOR THE YEAR 1865.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments,  
William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, January the 18th  
(by adjournment from the 4th), 1865.

BARRY DELANY, Esq., M. D., in the Chair.

The Rev. James Graves, Hon. Secretary, read the following letter, received from the Comptroller of the Prince of Wales's Household, in reply to a letter which had been addressed to the Prince, asking his Royal Highness to take the place of his lamented father, the late Prince Consort, as a Patron and supporter of the Society :—

“SANDRINGHAM, KINGS'S LYNN,  
“24th November, 1864.

“REV. SIR,—I am directed by the Prince of Wales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, addressed to him in August last, but to which His Royal Highness' absence on the Continent has delayed an answer being transmitted before.

“I have now the pleasure to inform you, by desire of the Prince, that His Royal Highness will be happy to accede to the request you have submitted on the part of the Committee of the Kilkenny Archæological Society, and to become its Patron.

“Will you be good enough to acquaint me with the sum necessary to become a Life Member?

“I have the honour to be, Rev. Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

“W. KNOLLYS.

“Rev. James Graves.”

Mr. Graves mentioned that His Royal Highness had sent double the amount of the ordinary composition for life membership.

The letter was received with great satisfaction by the meeting, as was also a communication from the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, stating His Excellency's willingness to become a Life Member and a Patron of the Society in the room of his deeply regretted predecessor in the Government of Ireland.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Right Hon. Lord Lismore, Shanbally Castle, Clogheen : proposed by Lord James Butler.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carrick, Mount Juliet, Thomastown ; the Right Hon. Lord De Vesci, Abbeyleix House, Abbeyleix ; and R. B. Utting, Esq., 9, Cornwall-crescent, Camdentown, London : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

James Quinn Pigot, Esq., Q. C., Tanfield-court, Middle Temple, London : proposed by Charles H. Foot, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

The Rev. Alfred Byrne, R. C. C. ; and the Rev. Michael Doyle, R. C. C., Irishtown, Dublin : proposed by Joseph Lalor, Esq., M. D.

W. M. Hennessy, Esq., Office of Lunatic Asylums, Dublin Castle : proposed by Mr. Prim.

James A. Kift, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Upper Pembroke-street, Dublin : proposed by H. B. Armstrong, Esq.

James J. McCarthy, Esq., A.R.H.A., Architect, Longford-terrace, Kingstown ; and Dillon Kelly, Esq., J. P., M. D., Mullingar : proposed by the Rev. P. V. Skelly, O. P.

John Feehan, Esq., T. C., High-street, Kilkenny ; and Mr. Michael Brophy, Parliament-street, Kilkenny : proposed by Mr. John Hogan.

James Comerford, Esq., Ardavan, Rathdrum, county of Wicklow : proposed by Andrew Wilson, Esq.

John Julien, Esq., Crown Solicitor, King's County, Drombane : proposed by T. L. Cooke, Esq.

The Hon. Secretary observed that the name of Sir Edward *Conroy*, Bart., elected at last meeting, had by mistake been printed Sir Edward *Coursy*.

The election of the Committee and Officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, as follows :—

#### PATRON IN CHIEF :

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

#### PATRONS :

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

The Most Honourable the Marquis of Ormonde.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Ossory, Ferns, and Leighlin.

Colonel the Right Hon. W. F. Tighe, Lieutenant of Kilkenny.

## PRESIDENT :

The Very Rev. the Dean of Ossory.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS :

The Worshipful the Mayor of Kilkenny.  
The High Sheriff of the county of Kilkenny.  
The High Sheriff of the city of Kilkenny.

## TREASURER :

Rev. James Graves, A. B., M. R. I. A.

## HONORARY SECRETARIES :

Rev. James Graves. | John G. A. Prim.

## HONORARY CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY :

James G. Robertson, Esq., Architect.

## COMMITTEE :

James S. Blake, Esq., Barrister-at-Law ; Rev. John Browne, LL. D. ; Barry Delaney, Esq., M. D. ; Peter Burtchaell, Esq., C. E. ; Rev. Luke Fowler, A. M. ; John James, Esq., L. R. C. S. I. ; Robert Malcomson, Esq. ; Rev. Philip Moore, P. P. ; Matthew O'Donnell, Esq., Q. C. ; Rev. John O'Hanlon, R. C. C. ; James G. Robertson, Esq., Architect ; John Windele, Esq.

The Report of the Committee for the year 1864 was read by the Honorary Secretary, as follows :—

“ Your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the year 1864 has been one of average prosperity to the Society. When a voluntary association, after the lapse of fifteen years, exhibits no signs of decay, it must be accounted a strong proof of inherent vitality ; and that the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society has, like all really living bodies, the power of renewing itself from year to year, will be acknowledged when the facts now to be recounted are borne in mind.

“ The list of *bonâ fide* paying Members numbered on the 31st of December *six hundred and thirty*. The new Members elected within the year were *forty-nine* ; and *forty-eight* Associates have resigned, died, or been temporarily removed from the list for non-payment of their subscriptions. Of those who intimated their intention to withdraw, there were but four who were in arrear, viz :—

Michael Shortall, Esq., Kilkenny, . . . . .	12s.
Captain Leslie, Killebegs, Carrickmacross, . . . . .	15s.
David Leslie, Esq., M. D., Killebegs, Carrickmacross, . . . . .	12s.
James Morrin, Esq., Dublin, . . . . .	12s.

“ The following are the names of those who have been struck off for

non-payment of their subscriptions, to be restored when the arrears are cleared off, viz. :—

	Amount for.
Mr. J. Campion, Kilkenny, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
T. Jones, Esq., George's-street, Cork, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
Rev. Albert James, Ramoan Glebe, Ballycastle, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
H. Kiernan, Esq., J. P., Capra House, Carrickmacross, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
J. Murphy, Esq., Greenridge, Kilkenny, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
F. J. Power, Esq., Mountmellick, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
D. Percy Sweetman, Esq., Wexford, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
W. P. Urquhart, Esq., M. P., Castlepollard, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
The Very Rev. Dean Lyster, . . . . .	1861, 1862, and 1863
John Costello, Esq., Galway, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
Richard Donovan, Esq., J. P., Ballymore, Ferns, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
John C. Deane, Esq., London, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Rev. Richard Fitzgerald, St. Mullins, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
Rev. John Flanagan, Killeven, Clones, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
John Greene, Esq., Wexford, . . . . .	1859 and 1860
Mr. Daniel Hickey, Gowran, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
Mr. Denis Hoyne, Thomastown, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
J. H. Haliday, Esq., Belfast, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Rev. John T. Kyle, Clondrohid, Macroom, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
John M. Loughnan, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Dublin, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
G. H. Lowe, Esq., Solicitor, Kilkenny, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
Rev. Maurice Mooney, Dungarvan, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
James O'Reilly, Esq., Ballast Office, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
Arthur Nugent, Esq., Cranna, Portumna, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Patrick O'Herlihy, Esq., Cork, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Rev. John Quarry, The Rectory, Midleton, . . . . .	1861, 1862, and 1863
Andrew Ryan, Esq., Gortkelley Castle, Borrisoleigh, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Rev. Paul Smithwick, Baldoyle, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Hercules St. George, Esq., Balief, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
Patrick Tobin, Esq., Merchant's-quay, Dublin, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
A. Colville Welsh, Esq., Dromore, . . . . .	1862 and 1863
Rev. Thomas Wilson, Bandon, . . . . .	1861 and 1862
The Marquis of Westmeath, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
G. J. Wycherly, Esq., M. D., Cork, . . . . .	1863 and 1864
William Whitmore, Esq., Carlow, . . . . .	1863 and 1864

“The fact seems scarcely compatible with its present vigorous existence, that since the commencement of the Society over *nine hundred* members have died, or been removed from the list. Those who wish to withdraw are of course fully justified in so doing; but there is a matter your Committee would fain hope will not continue to be overlooked by some amongst that class, namely, that it is a palpable injustice to the Society to allow arrears to accrue if there is no intention that membership should be kept up. The ‘Journal’ of the Society is necessarily supplied for the current year, although the subscriptions, due in advance, may not have been paid; all whose names are obliged to be removed from the list for non-payment are therefore in the position of having received value without rendering the equivalent of their subscriptions—thus turning the

leniency of the Society to its detriment, and causing a loss which is increased by the cash expended on the postage of the 'Journal,' as well as of the several circulars which they have received and left unnoticed.

"It may seem invidious to dwell on these unpleasant topics; but when it is stated that a sum of over £150 has been lost to the Society in the unpaid arrears of a portion of these nine hundred 'dead men,' it will be seen how necessary it is that such matters should not be passed over in silence. This £150 would have defrayed the entire expense of the 'Journal' for one whole year, and should by right form a portion of the balance in hands, instead of being a decided loss to the Society. It is obvious that a great many on this list have suffered their subscriptions to fall into arrear from mere want of thought, and it is hoped that they will, when thus reminded of the matter, make good their liabilities.

"Your Committee gladly quit this unpleasant subject, in order to point with pleasure to the continued estimation in which the 'Journal' of the Society is held. The market price of its seven volumes on booksellers' catalogues ranges high—considerably more than the original cost to Members. The Illustration Fund has met with very encouraging support. The names of all those who have increased their annual subscriptions in aid thereof are printed from time to time on the cover of the 'Journal;' and it is to be hoped that in the year we are now entering the example of this class, the *gens nobilior* of the Society, will be more widely followed.

"Amongst its losses by death the Society has to lament that of the Earl of Carlisle, for so many years one of its Patrons, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Death has also removed from amongst us a zealous Original Member of the Society, Joseph Burke, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. On the establishment of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Mr. Burke, then holding an official position connected with the county of Kilkenny, became one of its most zealous supporters, and one of the most energetic members of its managing committee. Indeed, it is not improbable that but for him it would not at this day be still in existence—most certainly, at least, but for him it would not hold the position of importance as an institution which is now accorded to it throughout the United Kingdom. The founders of the Society had not looked to or hoped for the extension of its influence beyond the narrow limits of the district whose name it bore; and they never contemplated, in their original design, the publication of its Proceedings in any other form than as they might appear in the reports of the local newspapers. At the end of the first year of its operations, however, Mr. Burke startled his fellow-members of the Committee by a proposition for the publication of the Society's Transactions in an illustrated volume, to be followed annually by a similar issue—averring that the papers read were too valuable to be left buried in old newspaper files, and were of sufficient importance to establish the Society's reputation throughout Great Britain, and gain such adhesions to its ranks from distant localities as would not only largely extend its means of usefulness, but insure for it ample support to keep it in existence independently of mere local subscribers, many of whom might be expected to fall away when the novelty of the undertaking should have worn off. The

suggestion, from being at first looked upon as a wild chimera, came to be soon seriously entertained, and was ultimately adopted and acted upon, with exactly the result which its propounder had foretold for it. The Society is no longer a mere county or provincial one; but, under the patronage of Royalty, counts its supporters and contributors from amongst the learned men, not of Great Britain and Ireland alone, but also of the Continent of Europe.

“A marked feature of the year’s progress has been the generous determination of some of the Members to defray the whole or the greater part of the expense of the printing of several papers of considerable interest. Your Committee gladly mention the names of A. G. Geoghegan, Esq., and Captain H. M. F. Langton, whose generosity has enabled the Committee to give to the Members, for the year 1864, a much larger amount of printed matter than the ordinary funds of the Society would in prudence warrant.

“In conclusion, your Committee have great pleasure in announcing that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been graciously pleased to become Chief Patron of the Society; and that His Excellency Lord Wodehouse, successor to Lord Carlisle as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, has also been pleased to become a Patron and Life Member. That His Royal Highness, the heir apparent to the throne of these realms, should thus show the interest he feels in the antiquities and ancient history of Ireland, must be most gratifying to the Members of this Society, and deserves their lasting gratitude; and it is also encouraging to find the present Viceroy of Ireland following in the steps of his illustrious and lamented predecessors, and giving the sanction of his patronage to a Society, the object of which is to foster the study of ancient literature and archaeology.”

It was unanimously resolved that the Report of the Committee be adopted and printed.

Mr. Robertson expressed a hope that the Members who had dropped off owing arrears would pay for those years during which they had continued to receive the Society’s “Journal.”

The Rev. J. Graves said he hoped so; all would be applied to.

Mr. Prim observed that the paragraph in the Report suggesting that the default of many arose from mere want of thought, was, no doubt, correct. It was too much the habit to overlook mere circulars; but the members of a Society should recollect that it would be too serious a labour to write special letters to each personally. He was sure many of the defaulters would not only pay the arrears placed to their names, but ask to join the Society again, and would be more careful in recollecting to meet the current subscriptions for the future.

The following Statement of the Accounts for the year 1863 was then brought forward by the Treasurer:—

## CHARGE.

1863.		£	s.	d.
Jan. 1.	To balance in Treasurer's hands, . . . . .	27	10	4½
Dec. 31.	„ Annual Subscriptions, including those to “Illustration Fund,” received during the year, . . . . .	198	5	6
	„ Subscriptions to Annual Volume . . . . .	0	10	0
	„ Life Composition, . . . . .	5	0	0
	„ Donation from Lord Courtown, towards copying MS. Name Books of Wexford and Carlow, at the Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, . . . . .	1	0	0
	„ Donation from A. G. Geoghegan, Esq., being the cost of printing his paper on the History of Londonderry, . . . . .	8	15	9
	„ Cash received for Woodcuts sold, . . . . .	1	1	6
	„ Cash received for “Journal” sold to Members, . . . . .	1	18	6
	„ Rent of Land at Jerpoint, . . . . .	1	0	0
		£245	1	7½

## DISCHARGE.

1863.		£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	By postage of “Journal,” . . . . .	7	4	8
	„ Circulars and Correspondence, . . . . .	8	12	6
	„ Cost of Illustrations of “Journal,” . . . . .	26	19	6
	„ Cost of printing, paper, &c., of “Journal” for the three quarters ending September 30th, 1863, . . . . .	89	18	7
	„ General printing and stationery, . . . . .	24	13	4
	„ Commission to Dublin Collector, . . . . .	0	8	6
	„ Sundry expenses incurred by Treasurer, . . . . .	5	17	3
	„ Carriage of parcels, . . . . .	0	14	5
	„ Purchase of scarce numbers of “Journal” and other books, . . . . .	3	0	5
	„ Rent of Jerpoint Abbey for one year, . . . . .	1	0	0
	„ Caretaker of Jerpoint Abbey, . . . . .	1	0	0
	„ Rent and Assurance of Museum, . . . . .	14	15	0
	„ Transcribing original documents, viz.:— “Name Books” of Kilkenny, Wexford, and Carlow, &c., . . . . .	14	10	6
	„ Balance in Treasurer's hands, . . . . .	46	6	11½
		£245	1	7½

Mr. Graves stated that the actual balance in the Society's favour was not quite so large as the above, the payment for printing the last quarterly part of “Journal” for 1863 coming into 1864; but



yet, when the accounts for the latter year should be brought forward, it would be found there was still a *bonâ fide* balance in the Society's favour.

The Treasurer's vouchers having been handed in, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Aylward were requested to audit the accounts before next meeting, as usual.

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors :—

By the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland : their "Proceedings," Vol. V., part 1.

By the Architectural, Archæological, and Historic Society for the County, City, and Neighbourhood of Chester : their "Journal," part 7.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : their "Journal," No. 82.

By the Geological Society of Dublin : their "Journal," Vol. X., part 2.

By the Author : "Catechism of Irish History," by the Rev. John O'Hanlon.

By the Royal Institution of Cornwall : their "Journal," No. 2, October, 1864.

By the British Archæological Association : their "Journal" for December, 1864.

By the Suffolk Institute of Archæology, Statistics, and Natural History : their "Proceedings," Vol. IV., No. 1.

By the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society : their "Magazine," No. 25.

By the Publisher : "The Gentleman's Magazine" for November and December, 1864, and January, 1865.

By the Publisher : "The Builder," Nos. 1131-1144, inclusive.

By Mr. Robertson, on the part of the Dean and Chapter of St. Canice : some pieces of carved oak, which had formed portion of a roof of St. Canice's Cathedral earlier than that being at present removed—apparently not older than the period of Bishop Williams' "restoration," in the reign of Charles II.; also some very perfect specimens of the old Cathedral flooring tiles, and an iron spring lock, of some antiquity, found in the progress of the works there. Also a carved stone belonging to the ancient Parish Church of St. Canice, which had preceded the present Cathedral. This stone, used as an ordinary building stone in the North Chapel, presented the ball ornament on a chamfer, usual in the Hiberno-Romanesque mouldings of the twelfth century. It corresponded fully in style with the carved capital built into the external base of south transept wall, as figured in the "History of St. Canice's Cathedral," p. 26.

By Mr. Prim : a leaden bulla of Pope Innocent IV.—whose pontificate began in 1243, and ended in 1254—stated by the person from whom he had bought it to have been found in the drainage excavations in the cemetery of St. Canice's Cathedral. This bulla had probably been originally attached to some Papal rescript connected with the Cathedral, with the erection of which it was coeval.

By the Rev. V. P. Skelly, O.P.: an encaustic flooring tile, the design on which was a lion rampant within an engrailed border, found in the Black Abbey, Kilkenny; and a London groat, of Edward IV., in base metal, also found at the Abbey.

By Mr. J. Ennis Mayler, Ballymitty, county of Wexford : a half stone mould for casting a small equal armed cross-crosslet, found at Mooretown, county of Wexford, about the year 1790, by the late Mr. Richard Cullen, who died about forty years since, and who always stated that he had picked it up in the sand by the margin of a stream. This mould differed from others of a similar character, in having an orifice in the back, whereby the molten metal passed into the mould at the centre of the cross, in place of at the edge, as usual. Mr. Mayler also presented four copper coins, found in the barony of Forth, including a half-crown of James II., struck in August, 1689, in remarkably good preservation.

By the Rev. W. A. Dobbyn, Clonmore Glebe, through Mr. Robertson : a very fine bronze spear-head, and an unfinished spindle-whorl, the hole not being completely drilled through. The spear-head was of that class having a broad blade, with orifices at each side of the central ridge, figured by Sir William Wilde, in his "Catalogue of the Royal Irish Academy Museum," page 496, figure 365.

By Dr. Ridley, Tullamore : a Kilkenny token, being that variety struck "For the Poor," in 1659.

By Edmond Smithwick, Esq., Mayor of Kilkenny : a curious and rare engraving, the object of which was to hold up to ridicule and obloquy the famous writer, Daniel de Foe. It was entitled "The Whig Medley, by G. B., Engraver," 1711.

By Mr. A. G. 'Geoghegan, Londonderry : a photograph of a page of a MS. copy of the Bible richly illuminated, written in the fourteenth century, now preserved in Foyle College, Londonderry. The photograph was accompanied by an interesting account of the MS., printed at p. 232, *infra*.

By Mr. Robertson : an ancient stone cresset, supposed to have been used for burning rushlights, and of which there were already three specimens in the Museum, found in different localities. The antique was cupped at each end, and shaped like a dumbbell in the centre, being thus capable of standing on either extremity. Mr. Robertson had recently obtained it in the parish of Castle Ellis, county of Wexford.

Mr. Graves observed that, at a recent visit to their Museum, Lord Enniskillen had expressed his sense of the great rarity and interest of this class of antiquities, which he had here seen for the first time. He (Mr. Graves) had given to Lord Enniskillen a cast from one of the examples in their collection, in order that His Lordship might ascertain if any such antiques were preserved in the British Museum.

By Mr. Andrew Wilson, Collector of Inland Revenue, Wexford, on the part of Mr. Denis Hoyne, Thomastown: a piece of the St. Patrick-money, of the halfpenny size, in good preservation. Referring to the late Dr. Cane's argument as to this coinage having proceeded from the mint of the Confederate Catholics, and Dr. Aquilla Smith's theory, in reply, as to their having been Dublin tokens of the reign of Charles II., Mr. Wilson expressed his opinion that they were much more likely to have been struck early in the reign of James II. He supported his views by the following observations:—

“The absence of the arms of the Confederation, and of their well-known motto, ‘Pro Rege, Lege, et Patria Hiberni unanimes,’ as well as of anything on the coin to denote its being issued by their authority, appears to me a fatal objection. I should expect that a Government like the Confederation, newly formed, and not universally accepted in the kingdom, would be sure, when issuing a coinage, to seize such an opportunity to proclaim the authority they claimed, by engraving on the coin their official style. The issue of the coin, it would appear to me, might be attributed with more probability to another period of our history—the commencement of the reign of King James II., before any serious attempt was made to contest his right to the Crown. The inscription on both sides of the coin appear to me more appropriate to that period than to the earlier period. In that earlier period, although the Supreme Council was carrying on the Government in the name of the King, it was not to be expected that their loyalty could be of so exalted a character to *him* that they should write him down a second David, and suppress all mention of themselves—and the inscription on the obverse, ‘Quiescat Plebs,’ would be a bitter mockery in the midst of a desolating war. But assuming the truth of my hypothesis, the inscriptions would be singularly appropriate. ‘Floreat Rex’ would be an exceedingly appropriate prayer addressed on behalf of a Catholic King, married to a young Catholic Princess, but as yet without heirs: and the other inscription, ‘Quiescat Plebs,’ would represent a prayer for the continuance of the only interval of peace the kingdom had enjoyed for years. I should be inclined to think that the ‘St. Patrick’s’ pieces were never intended to serve for money. They appear to me to have been kept as badges of adherence to the King, in the same way as the silver ‘White Swans’ were given to the adherents of the Lancastrian Prince of Wales *tempore* Henry VI.”

By Mr. Robert Day, Jun., Cork, eighteen specimens of flint implements, found as described in the following communication:

These implements exhibited a striking resemblance to those discovered in the "drift" near Abbeville and elsewhere in France and England, which have excited so much interest of late in scientific quarters; the presentations comprised specimens of the perfect leaf-shaped spear or knife, the partly formed celt, and the broken flint weapon; none of them were polished:—

"On the Northern Counties Railway within two hours' drive of Belfast, is the Toome Station, which takes its name from Toome Bridge, a secluded peaceful village, nestled among old trees, and bounded on the south by Lough Neagh, and on the west by the River Bann, which here flows out of the lough on its course to join the Atlantic, below Coleraine. The bridge which spans the river at Toome forms a connecting link between the counties of Antrim and Derry. The lough presents at this place the appearance of a great V, having the space between the points filled with a plateau of sand, known as Toome Bar. This is almost invariably covered with from two to three feet of water. Barton, who published a work on Lough Neagh, Dublin, 1751, says, 'that before the autumnal season of the year the water discharged at Toome is very inconsiderable, so as not to afford a depth greater than that which may reach to a shoe-buckle, or the knee of a person wading; and once it happened that a person taking advantage of an inblowing wind walked over dryshod.' Unfortunately, when I visited the place, the wind was in a contrary direction, and the water reached above the knee; but my guide informed me that, owing to the dryness of the summer, the whole surface of the bar was at one period of this year dry. Strewn upon and imbedded in it are logs and balks of timber, some of which bear the marks of fire, while others still retain their upright position; these must have been placed here artificially, as the bar of sand extends fully a quarter of a mile into the lake, outside of which there is deep water; and if by the force of the water they had been thrown up here, it is equally probable they would have been swept by the first winter flood into the river, and thence to the sea. From this it may be inferred that there was here, at a very remote period, a crannoge or lacustrine dwelling. The sites for such habitations were, when practicable, always chosen either where a river flowed into a lake or *vice versa*, these being the best fishing grounds. And here nature may be said to have formed a site which is unequalled. From the large number of flint weapons, &c., which I found lying on the surface, and slightly imbedded in the sandy bottom, it is more than probable that they were used by the dwellers in this island village. Flint is not found in its natural state within seven miles of Toome, so that it must have been brought home, and manufactured in the crannoge. I searched in vain for a fragment or nodule similar to those which may be found in any gravel heap, but all I saw had the evident marks of chipping; some were thrown away, owing to the imperfect character of the flint, while others were perfectly formed, and more were broken, either in the process of making or in use. But the most positive proof of their having been made here is, that the large cores of flint from which the weapons were struck were also found. All these flint flakes are of the earliest type, many closely resembling those found in the 'drift' at Abbeville, and many like those brought home from the

Dordogne Caves by Messrs. Lartet and Christy. I only succeeded in getting two rudely shaped barbed spear-heads; but had the good fortune to find four celts of the ordinary type, made from the trap rock, two of which are polished, while the others are made with less care, and the edge only showing signs of careful working. The greater number of these flint weapons were perhaps formed by not more than three or four skilful blows; thus, one would strike the fragment from the core, while two more would form the midrib, giving it a leaf shape, and a fourth would cause the slight depression at the base, which was intended to secure the weapon to its wood or bone handle. Some ten or fifteen years ago the commissioners appointed for deepening the River Bann had occasion to infringe on this sand bed, and in it antiquities of great variety, belonging to the Stone and Bronze periods, were found. These were deposited in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy; and any person looking over the Catalogues of this National Collection, must be struck with the frequency with which Toomebar appears in connexion with bronze swords and spear-heads, or with the more peaceful relics of a bye-gone age, the ring brooch, enamelled bead, or silver armlet. Lough Neagh, like nearly all the other lakes in Ireland, has its traditions and legends, in which the peasantry implicitly believe. And when Moore wrote the lines—

“ ‘ On Lough Neagh’s banks as the fisherman strays,  
When the clear cold eve’s declining,  
He sees the round towers of other days  
In the waves beneath him shining—”

he but perpetuated in undying verse the belief which the dwellers on its shores possess, that beneath the present waters was once a thickly populated country; but owing to the ‘evil living of the men who dwelt therein,’ it was suddenly submerged by a just God; and that even to this day may be seen, beneath its placid waters, the round towers, ‘the high-shapen steeple’ and the crumbling wall, of ruined cities. May not this tradition be the faint remembrance of the lacustrine inhabitants?”

The Rev. James Graves said that, having heard of the discovery of a crannoge, or lake-dwelling, in Grantstown Lake, Queen’s County, on the property of the Right Hon. John Wilson Fitzpatrick, he had written to their newly elected Associate, that gentleman’s son, Mr. Bernard Fitzpatrick, who had kindly sent him the following brief account of the particulars:—

“The lake is very deep, and was drained two or three years ago, so as to make it six feet lower. This disclosed an island of mud and stakes. The stakes which form the circumference are very sharply pointed, but in the centre they seem to have been grooved and nailed to one another. I found an enormous quantity of animal bones; two nails with large heads; a hasp; what I consider to be an arrow or spear of charred wood, and a polished piece of bone, like a hair-pin. The pin has grooved circles all round it, at the top. I found also a great deal of charred wood, and a lump of gypsum. I also found what I think must have been a coffin, as it was boarded over, and had pieces of wood for the head and feet; also

side pieces, all fitted into one another. When opened, there was a bad smell; and two small bones, almost crumbling, were found inside; it was about four feet and a half long. I found no boat—anything of the kind would be likely to have sunk to the bottom, and the lake is upwards of eighty feet deep at least.”

The Rev. J. Graves said that he wished to correct a typographical error in the completed version of the inscription on Prior Comerford’s tomb, at Kells (see p. 186, *supra*); it should read—

✠ HIC : IACET : RICARDUS : COMERFORD : [QUI :  
Q]ONODAM : PRIOR : EXSTITIT : ISTIUS : DOMI :

The Rev. George H. Reade, Inniskeen, recorded the discovery of a crannoge on the glebe island, in the parish of Aghnamullen, in the county of Monaghan. There were two islands in the lake under the glebe house. Some fourteen years ago the then rector ploughed up one of them for the first time, and turned up many curious antiquities—bones, stakes, pottery, &c. The present rector had also found many ancient remains on the edge of the island, during the low water of last summer. He mentioned to Mr. Reade the following curious circumstance:—Sitting on the island one day, he saw what he thought to be a button on the leaf of a waterplant, which had grown up from the bottom of the lake. But this, on examination, proved to be an old coin, ascertained by Mr. Reade to be a half-groat of Edward III. Some of the treasures of the lake being thus lifted to the surface by the natural growth of the plant.

The Marquis of Kildare, in reference to Mr. ‘Geoghegan’s argument, founded on a passage in Moore’s “History of Ireland,” as to Christopher Paris neither having treacherously surrendered Maynooth Castle, nor being executed by Skeffington on taking that stronghold of “Silken Thomas,” sent the following communication:—

“On reading Mr. ‘Geoghegan’s note (p. 56) of the last number of the Society’s ‘Journal,’ it appears to me that the facts he mentions do not ‘corroborate Moore’s account.’ According to Stanihurst, Christopher Paris was beheaded soon after the taking of the castle. Sir W. Skeffington, in his letter of the 26th March, 1535, says that the castle was taken on the 23rd, and twenty-five of the garrison were beheaded, and one hung on the 25th. And in the act of attainder of Thomas Earl of Kildare and his followers, it is mentioned that Paris was dead at the time it was passed, 1536. I think the accounts are not inconsistent, as Skeffington, in his report, would very likely suppress the fact of the castle having been given up by treachery, as lessening his own merit in taking it; and it is scarcely probable that Stanihurst, writing in the life-time of Earl Thomas’ brother, would publish the story of the betrayal, if it was a mere invention. The fact of George Paris being on friendly terms with a Fitzgerald,

and conspiring with him against the English Government, is also consistent with this story. He may have retained the family friendship for the Geraldines, and have been the more hostile to the Government in consequence of the execution of his father or brother, under the circumstances mentioned by Stanihurst."

Mr. Prim said he wished to place on record in the "Journal" of the Society the recent discovery, by the Rev. Mr. Skelly, at the Black Abbey, of an Edwardian tomb, making an interesting addition to the tombs previously discovered, and which had been noticed by him in the Transactions of the Society for the year 1851.<sup>1</sup> In the process of removing the yard wall of an adjoining house built on part of the old monastic precincts, for the purpose of making a more commodious entrance at the western end of the abbey, the workmen found a tomb, apparently in its original position, as it lay east and west, and the foot to the former point. It was a coffin-shaped slab, ornamented with a cross in bold relief, gracefully designed, and floriated at the points. Running along the right side of the shaft of the cross, in two lines, was an inscription in Norman French, and incised Lombardic characters, as follows:—

✠ DAVID : MERCATOR : SIT : ICI : DEU : DE :  
SA : ALME : EIT : MERCI : AMEN.

This David the Merchant was, no doubt, an ancient burgess of Kilkenny, but Mr. Prim said he had not yet been able to identify him.

Mr. A. G. 'Geoghegan sent the following:—

"Attached to Foyle College, Londonderry, is an extensive library, containing some 1500 books, chiefly of a theological character. Ponderous folios of the early Fathers of the Church, and polyglot treatises by the learned casuists of the Middle Ages, meet the eye on every side. A considerable number of the volumes which form the collection are in black letter; and such light reading as the works of Bredenbachius (*Antwerp*, 1588), Buchehingerus' 'Historiæ Ecclesiæ' (*Lovanii*, 1560), Cloppenburghius (*Franckf.* 1652), Hieronymus Opera (*Bas.* 1565), Hilarii lucubrationes (*Bas.* 1528), and the 'Orthodoxagraphiæ Theologiæ' (*Bas.* 1555); and hundreds of volumes of a similar nature, rest in all the dignity of undisturbed repose on the shelves. It is therefore not a matter of much marvel that the gift of this collection by Archbishop King, in 1729, as a public library for the *use of the clergy and gentlemen of the Diocese of Derry*, has been, so far as the laity are concerned, of little benefit; few of the gentlemen of Derry have been tempted to avail themselves of the privilege granted by the worthy donor; and to a great number, I fear, its very existence is unknown.

"Still the collection is in many respects an interesting one, and no

<sup>1</sup> "Journal," vol. i., p. 453, First Series.

better description of it can be given than what has been already supplied in the preface to the Catalogue, printed in 1848. It runs thus:—

““ These books were originally the Library of Ezekiel Hopkins, D. D., Lord Bishop of Derry. His name is written in many of them, and among them are several books of manuscript notes, the result of his diligent study. On his decease they were purchased by his successor in the see, William King, afterwards Archbishop of Dublin, justly celebrated for his learning and services to the Church. By him they were demised at his death, in 1729, in trust, to Bishop Nicholson, as follows:—

““ 13thly.—I give and bequeath to the Right Rev. William, Lord Bishop of Derry, and to his successors for the time being, all the books I bought from the executors of Dr. Hopkins, late Bishop of Derry, in trust, nevertheless, that he and his successors shall suffer the said books to be and remain in the library now prepared for them, for the use of the clergy and gentlemen of the said diocese, as a public library; and I will and order my executor hereafter appointed, during his life, to make such further conveyance of the said books as counsel learned in the law shall advise, and, with the consent of the bishop of the said diocese for the time being, to settle proper rules for the management and preservation of the said library and books; and I do hereby appoint the Bishop of Derry to be visitor of the same, and entreat him and his successors to take that care upon them.”

““ The books were, in pursuance of the above will, kept in a suitable room attached to the old Free School in Derry, and were transferred to the new school on the Foyle, upon the completion of that building in 1814.

““ To the original Library thus associated with the distinguished names of Hopkins and King, additions have been made from time to time, and it is to be regretted that they have not been more exactly recorded. Amongst the chief contributors the name of Gabriel Stokes appears. He was a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and held the living of Desertmartin, in this diocese, in 1805. Himself in reputation as a scholar, especially in Greek literature, his books remain in the Library a lasting evidence of his desire to encourage learning among the clergy. The late James Alexander, Esq., of London, also presented the institution with a pair of large globes, and several maps, handsomely mounted, to which it was his design that philosophical apparatus should have been added. To the late Rev. James Knox, for forty years Master of the School, as also to the present Bishop of Derry, the Library is indebted for the re-binding of many of the volumes, and their consequent preservation. Unfortunately, no funds exist for this purpose, so that the collection, worthy of regard, not from historical association alone, but of great intrinsic value, is seriously suffering from decay.

““ Theology occupies the largest space on the shelves, but there is also abundant material for the classical and general student.

““ The Catalogue has been prepared under many disadvantages, but will, it is hoped, serve the purpose contemplated by the editor, namely, of facilitating reference, and drawing the attention of the clergy and gentlemen of the diocese to a body of literature which might be still more avail-



able to the uses of the divine, the scholar, and the gentleman, if but a moderate provision was made for repairing the injuries of time, and supplying modern publications.'

"Among the many and curious volumes to be found in this Library, my attention was directed to a '*Biblia Sacra illuminata*' in manuscript, the work apparently of Irish artists, probably monks, of the fourteenth century. On visiting the College a second time, through the courtesy of the Rev. W. H. Parrett, A. M., Head Master, I was enabled to inspect more closely the manuscript, and to procure photographs of its pages for the Association.

"The volume is bound in boards, which have been carefully covered with parchment to preserve them. It is nine inches in length, five inches broad, and three inches thick; it contains 360 pages. The vellum, like that of all Irish manuscripts, is strong, and somewhat rough, differing in this respect from '*The Codex Derensis*,' which is scribed on a material as smooth and pliable as the most delicate foreign note paper. The ink used is in some portions of the manuscript a jet black, retaining its original tint; but in other portions, where an inferior medium has been employed, the fluid has become pale and discoloured through age. It is notable that in those places the calligraphy is by an inferior artist, showing that two, if not more, have been employed on the work. Of the contents of the *Codex Foylensis*, I am enabled to furnish a clear and full account; and the Members of the Society will at once endorse this opinion when they peruse the following description of its pages from the pen of Dr. Todd, S. F. and Librarian of Trinity College, Dublin, dated so far back as 1849 :—

"'This is a beautiful and precious copy of the Bible, written in the fourteenth century. It contains the whole of the Old and New Testaments in the Vulgate version; but, what is unusual, at the end of the Book of Psalms, we find the collects for the principal festivals, together with the ordinary or canons of the Mass; then follows the Book of Isaiah, and the rest of the Old Testament, in the usual order, to the end of Malachi; then the Book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus; at the end of Ecclesiasticus follow the *Preparatio Sacerdotis ad Missam*, and the private prayers to be said by the priest during the celebration. Then follows the New Testament, and at the end a very copious copy of the explanations of Hebrew words in alphabetical order.

"'From the occurrence of the ordinary of the Mass in this curious and valuable Bible, it is evident that this was a book intended to be carried about by an itinerant priest, that he might be provided not only with the Scriptures, but also with the essential parts of the Liturgy for celebrating Mass.'

"There is no doubt but that Doctor Todd has accurately and truly pointed out the peculiar purpose for which the Codex Foylensis was intended. From the size of the volume, it could be readily carried about from place to place in a leathern satchel attached to the shoulders of the gilly attending on the priest, or slung from the back of the animal on which he rode. Doctor Reeves, in his interesting account of the 'Book of

Armagh,' supplies some valuable information on this custom of the ancient Irish, and remarks that the leathern satchel contained the Irish religious books, not only *in transitu*, but likewise on reaching their destination. 'Book shelves being unknown in the primitive economy of Irish monasteries, all the volumes were suspended in satchels by straps from pins or hooks in the wall.'

"The ornamentation of the Manuscript is neat, but somewhat of a slight character. The colours used are two—vermilion and blue,—the latter having two tints, one dark, the other light. It is wonderful with these simple accessories how pleasing an effect has been produced. The initial letters of each chapter, as is usual in Irish Manuscripts, appear to have chiefly engaged the attention and employed the ingenuity of the artists. On the circular portion of those initial letters much labour has been expended. The circle of the letter is enlarged, and the surface is filled in with vermilion, dotted with blue points. The first glance at this suggests the result as similar to that produced on tessellated tiles of Moorish or Arabesque pattern. A second and closer glance brings out the fact, that what had at first appeared to the eye to be merely a plain red disc interspersed with blue points or dots is actually composed of minute lines or tracings of vermilion, drawn with the utmost elegance, and forming the most graceful and complicated combinations of linear designs. The variety of these designs is well worth a careful study. In some pages the initial letter is drawn so as to form an angle with the double columns of the Manuscript; in others it is extended the whole length of the page, and is even continued horizontally at the bottom of it. In a few instances the termination or stem of this initial letter has been turned by a flourish of the pen into a grotesque human face; but it is evident that this has arisen from a sudden vagary of the artist, and that it formed no portion of the original design.

"Numerous marginal notes, and annotations are traced on various pages of the Manuscript, proving even to a casual observer that the conjecture of Doctor Todd, that the volume was intended for a book of reference, is perfectly correct.

"I have, in conclusion, to add that this interesting Manuscript is carefully preserved in the Library of Foyle College; and that the Head Master, the Rev. W. H. Parrett, promptly affords every facility for the inspection of its pages to all persons who apply to him on the subject.

"In connexion with the foregoing, I have long held the opinion that Ireland is richer in rare manuscripts than she is generally supposed to be; and that hid in the garrets of our old mansions, or overlooked in the neglected shelves of the hereditary bookcase, lie many volumes, which, if rescued from their dust-covered recesses, and made popular through the printed columns of your 'Proceedings,' would prove interesting alike to the general and to the antiquarian reader. Old diaries and family letters frequently throw an unexpected light on the dark places of history. The aid that family portraits render to the artist and to the author is well known. If my humble voice could be heard, I would raise it to call on the Members of this Association, located as they are in all parts of the kingdom, to turn their attention to this subject; and I am confident that in a short time they will find their researches rewarded with a success

they little expected when they commenced them, and thereby an amount of useful matter would be thus elicited which would be, not only full of interest to their comrades of the present day, but would also lay up a store of valuable information for our future Irish Macaulay, from which he could extract those minute details and artistic touches for his historic portraits which can be alone furnished by domestic records, and family archives."

The following papers were submitted to the Members:—

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## TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE COUNTY AND CITY OF KILKENNY.

BY MR. JOHN HOGAN.

(Continued from p. 214.)

I STATED in the opening of the last section of this paper that Cormac Mac Cuilleanan annexed to Munster that part of the present county of Kilkenny south of the King's River, and erected there a royal mansion called "Ucht-na-Roighna," or the Breast of Roighna. At the same period his bards of Cashel describe the plain extending northwards from the King's River to the Dromedilgy ridge of hills, by its primitive subdenomination of Magh Rath, or the Plain of the Rath or Forts, which title they appear to have understood of the domestic estates of the king. They also designated this plain for the first time "Gabhran," and confined the name of Raighne to the country south of the King's River, which they had annexed to Munster; and from this arrangement the King of Ossory is now for the first time recognised as "Righ Gabhran," in contradistinction to "Righ Raighne," his ancient title, now ignored by the Munstermen. In the construction of the map which accompanied the preceding section (see p. 191, *supra*), I adopted this subdivision of the ancient territory of Raighne, as I consider it the most worthy of preservation when accompanied by the present illustrations. Yet it must be observed here that this arrangement was only coextensive with the reign of Cormac Mac Cuilleanan; for after the battle of "Bealach Mughna," where he was slain, in the year 909, Flann Sionna, Monarch of Ireland, marched into Osraigh, and restored that kingdom to its former possessions. Besides what has been here advanced in illustration of Magh Lacha, O'Gloiairn's cantred, and Magh Raighne, some additional inquiries respecting the same localities will be found in "Transactions," vol. iii., p. 378, New Series. The sequel of the present paper shall be confined to the territory variously denominated Magh Rath, Ui-Cearbhaill, and Gabhran.